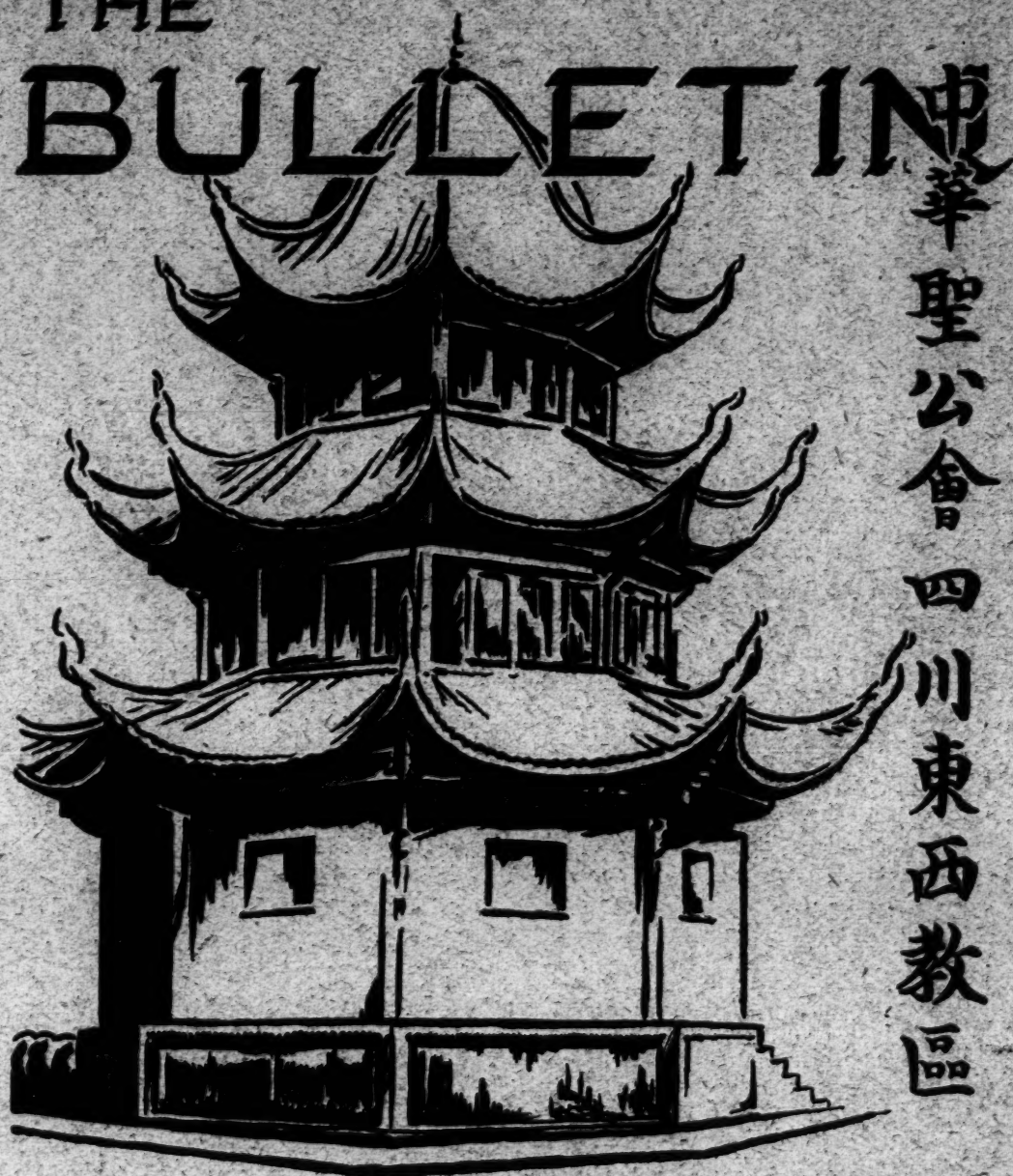


No. 148.

THE BULLETIN



OF THE
DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
FOR
WESTERN CHINA

MAY, 1941.

THE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR WESTERN CHINA

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Important Notice!

It is proposed (D.V.) to hold the Annual
DAY OF PRAYER AND GIFTS
for the work in Eastern and Western Szechwan on
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th, 1941,
at the
MARY SUMNER HOUSE,
Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.

The General Committee will meet at **2.30 p.m.**, and will be followed immediately by the **Annual Meeting** of the D.A.W.C., the Chairman being the Rev. Preb. H. W. Hinde.

Special prayers will be offered for the work in Western China, and it is hoped that addresses will be given by a C.I.M. Missionary from Eastern Szechwan and the Rev. D. N. Sargent (C.M.S.) from Western Szechwan. A collection will be made to cover expenses and to help forward the work in the two Dioceses.

Tea will be served in the Hall after the meeting ; but, in view of the difficulties of war-time catering, those who would like tea are asked kindly to let Miss Hughes-Hallett know in good time of their intention to be present.

A warm invitation to attend the Meeting is extended to all our friends, and it is hoped that those who cannot be present in person will take their part, nevertheless, by joining in earnest prayer for Western China on this special day, and by sending their gifts for the support of God's work in that field of great opportunity.

R.S.V.P. by **June 18th**, to the Organising Secretary,
Miss F. HUGHES-HALLETT,
Kianning, Woodcote Avenue,
Wallington, Surrey.

The Bulletin.

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The Enthronement of the Right Rev. K. G. Bevan,

IN THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN
IN LANGCHUNG ON ST. THOMAS' DAY,
DECEMBER 21st, 1940.

A very simple service of enthronement of the new Bishop of Eastern Szechwan was held on St. Thomas' Day in Langchung. Owing to the tremendous rise in the cost of living, and especially of the cost of travel, it was impossible for delegates of other churches in the Diocese to be present, but the Cathedral congregation represented that of the whole Diocese, and the importance of the ceremony lay not in the ritual nor the numbers present, but in the solemn symbolic act by which the new Bishop entered upon the spiritual heritage of the see.

To the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers" the clergy entered, Archdeacon John Wang, Rev. Wang Kong-ai, and Rev. T. E. Benson, Principal of the new Bible Institute, with Mr. Stephen Liu, the voluntary lay reader. The main door of the Cathedral having been shut, the lesson was read by Mr. Liu (I. Thess. v., 8-13), after which there was a time of silent prayer, followed by the reading of Psalm 122 by the Rev. T. E. Benson. At this point a loud knock was heard at the main doors, which were flung open by the wardens to admit the Bishop and Rev. Gordon Aldis, who was acting as his chaplain. Standing in the doorway facing the clergy who had come down from the chancel to

meet him, the Bishop requested admittance to the Cathedral to take his seat upon the throne of his predecessors. To the singing of the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell," the clergy returned to their places, the Archdeacon standing before the Holy Table and the Bishop kneeling before him. After the hymn, the Bishop stood at the Communion rail and read the oath of conformity to the constitution and canons of the Sheng Kung Hui and the Diocese, after which he was led by the Archdeacon to the Bishop's throne, and knelt before it while the Archdeacon read over him the beautiful prayer of consecration and blessing. Another hymn was followed by prayer led by a Christian leader, a refugee, Elder Ch'en of the Presbyterian Church in Anhwei. It is probably the first time in the history of our Church that a Presbyterian elder has taken part in the enthronement of a Bishop, but it was a beautiful symbol of the unity of the Body of Christ, and our oneness in our approach to the Throne of God. The Bishop preached from the text "Who is on the Lord's side; let him come unto me"—the call of a leader of God's people to rally to the banner of Christ, to fight against sin, and vindicate the honour of God before the heathen round about; it was a call to join in the Gospel Crusade, co-operating to carry the banner of the Cross to all parts of the Diocese. A final hymn was sung, the Bishop led in closing prayers and gave the blessing. The whole was a simple, reverent service, a fitting start to a period in the history of our Diocese under a new leader. Leaders may change, but God changes not. May He continue His work among us.

Letter from Bishop Bevan.

as from Bishop's House,

Chühsien, Sze., China.

New Year's Day, 1941.

Dear Friends of the Diocese,

This is the first day of a New Year, and could one do better than address the first letter of the year to you! I wish that you could see us now, in a tumble-down inn on the way up to Kwangyuan. Over us the tiles of the low

roof, under us an uneven mud floor, walls of bamboo slats plastered with mud. I am sitting on one side of a rickety table, the speedy dissolution of which into its component parts is checked, for how long I can only guess, by a piece of coir rope. Next door, through the partition, three little hungry pigs are keeping up a merry concert of squeaking and grunts. We look out on to a little courtyard, and beyond is the front part of the inn and the unevenly paved street. Just as I write, in come a group of coolies, Shensi men returning home, with huge loads on their backs of paper and bamboo bed mats. The poor old inn has suffered through the continual billeting of soldiers passing through, but it is war-time, and the woman of the inn takes it very cheerily. She has just finished clearing up after the last lot, and is glad to have us for the night, and make the regular fourpence for the room.

My last letter* was written in a very different environment, the China Inland Mission Home in Shanghai, very shortly after my consecration, and before setting out on the journey back. On November 3rd my wife and I sailed for Hongkong, and after a couple of days enjoying the hospitality of Miss Griffin at the Church Guest House, caught the plane for Chungking. It left at 3 a.m., after we had endured a wait at the field of three tedious hours. We were escorting a little fellow of six, and as we circled round above Hongkong, I leaned over to him and asked how he liked it. "Sooner be on the ground, on the ground in my bed," was his sage reply. But by breakfast time we were landing in Chungking, and there was the cheery smile of Mr. Harper to welcome us. He had come up a little while before from his work in Wanh sien, which could ill spare him, to lend a hand in Chungking. On account of the serious bombings, our Business Manager had to move to the bungalow, and carry on his work from there. This, and the general difficulty of carrying out his work, necessitated additional help; and the call came for Mr. Harper. As a little instance of how the work has increased, one might mention that recently the making of one air booking called for ten separate visits to the city, there and back about ten miles. A hundred miles' walk for one air passage!

In Chungking I had my first confirmations. There is

* Not received—it must have been lost in transit.—Editor.

a refugee group there of members of the American Church Mission, mostly from Hankow. The Rev. Stephen Chang, who used to be in charge of the Cathedral there, is the leader of the group, and is helped on the women's side by Miss Hammond, a most brave and selfless worker from Nanking. At present they are working in what is called the Grace Community Church, an interdenominational group of refugee Christians, specially caring for those belonging to our Church, and it was three of their young people who were presented on Sunday, November 10th. The next day we had a special service for the British and American communities to remember those who laid down their lives in the last war, and for prayer in this time of the world's great need. Besides missionaries of every society in the city, there were present many members of the Embassy and Consular staffs, as well as the officers and men of the little British gunboat stationed at that port. In the evening we had a supper and meeting with the members of the Anglican Fellowship, a group to which Archdeacon Ts'ai ministered when he was in Chungking. The raids of the summer had broken up their group, the place where they used to meet had been smashed, but they were coming together again, meeting in a room in the Y.M.C.A. and planning to purchase a site for a new church which will be built when better times come.

The early morning of November 12th, long before dawn, saw us following a coolie laden with our baggage in a ghostly walk through the ruins of the city, on our way to the riverside to catch the launch for Hochwan. That day was spent chugging up river, units in a very friendly and cheery crowd seated tight on backless benches, bearing with one another in the best spirit for nearly twelve hours. At Hochwan we were met by our Chühsien coolies, who next day took us on to Wusheng and so to **Yochih**, the first of those churches in the Kwangan Archdeaconry served by the B.C.M.S. It was hopeful to be introduced by the Rev. Wang Sheng-mo to a few young people looking forward to baptism at Christmas. In **Kwangan** city there were few Christians, as all had left after the bombing. Spending one night there with Mr. Davis, who was alone, we went on to **Taishihch'ang**, where we found Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong with Miss Henshall living in fairly primitive outstation con-

ditions, but very cheery, and getting on well with medical work. When they went out there after the bombing of the city, people just crowded round for treatment. In a few weeks, the doctor had been able practically to save the life of the little nephew of the chief man of the place, and win a great reputation. Mr. Wang Teh-shī is helping in the evangelistic work made possible by this service. We could only stay with them a couple of hours in the middle of the rainy day, and had to push on for the week-end with the Mulrenans at **Kwanyinkoh**. The warmth of our welcome there should have dried us at once, but though it warmed our hearts, we had to have a charcoal brazier for our belongings. The next day, Sunday, we met all the Christians, and took part in the service; there were no confirmations in Kwanyinkoh. My last meeting with the Rev. Chao Teh-sheng was in Chungking two years before, when he was down for treatment for his eye, which had gone blind. Thank God the sight of the other eye has been spared and it seems unaffected.

The next day, November 18th, brought us to **Chühsien**. We entered from the west, and so did not realise how badly the city had suffered in the August bombing; indeed, the crowds round that gate were bigger than ever. However, when we reached our house, standing on the brink of a sea of desolation, we understood how great the damage had been. Later on we went out to the church site outside the North Gate, and recognised it by the old vine which was still standing in what used to be the back courtyard. It seemed to me a symbol of the living Church which abides even though the brick and mortar edifice may be destroyed. On the next Sunday, between thirty and forty people gathered for service in the Conference Room at the Bishop's House, which is now used for worship temporarily. All were simple folk of little account socially, but a nucleus through which the Spirit may work. It is here in Chühsien that we shall make our centre. For the time being the Derbyshires will occupy our house, having been burnt out of theirs, and we are just retaining an office and bedroom, besides quarters for Mr. Chang Hsiao-yu and Mr. Pateman for their valuable office work.

Ten days getting hold of things in the office had to suffice, and on November 30th we left for Tachu and

Tahsien. We spent a full and happy Sunday in the former city; one part of Sunday's ministry was baptising little Esther Grace Simmonds, a beautiful child born at the end of August. It was good to meet cheery Mr. Lo Yu-hsin again, and to learn that his youngest boy Peter, who is very ill with consumption, was distinctly better, the improvement being attributed to a new treatment with raw kerosene, a cure which sounds horrid enough to do a lot of good. Mr. Lo, who has been in deacon's orders about a year, should be priested at the next ordination in Lent. Tachu is one of the churches where a good and faithful work is being done, but without very much visible result in additions by baptism. One of the encouraging things is the Sunday School work, which both teachers and children seem to enjoy.

What a pleasure it was to get back to Tahsien I need hardly say, to be back in familiar scenes, and to meet old friends, Chinese and missionary. Our stay of five days seemed all too short, but it gave opportunity for long talks with Archdeacon Ts'ai with regard to his work and the future of the Diocese. My wife and I were very pleased with what we saw of Miss Dix's Women's School. Numbers are small, only fifteen, but a start has been made, and now many more are inquiring, with a view to entering. We cannot over-estimate the value of such a work to the future progress of the Church in the Diocese. It can serve as a preparatory course to that in the Bible Institute, as well as fitting many wives and mothers to be really spiritual forces in their homes. The Christian home is the foundation of a Church that will stand.

Leaving by boat for Chühsien again, a trip which gave a rare opportunity for some reading, we reached there on December 10th for a stay of two busy days, and then set out on this long itineration. We went for the Sunday to Yingshan, and stayed with the Sadlers, happy in their new work in that place. The women's work has been well carried on by Misses Allen and Warren, whom we met in Shanghai just leaving, and Miss Parsons. Now the men's work all through the pastorate will be well served by Mr. Sadler, and get its chance after several years' neglect. Old Pastor Ma is now voluntary pastor of the city congregation, living in retirement in the country near at hand. We had

a grand yarn on Sunday evening, talking of his conversion and the early days of the work under Miss Culverwell and Miss Kingston.

Chowkow we visited in company with Mr. Sadler on Monday, our visit being to cheer old Mr. Ho Tsoh-fah, working alone in a difficult environment. There are one or two simple families that have as a family believed, and these, as Mr. Ho said, are the real foundation of the Church of the future. The same was true at Sinchenpa, which we visited next day; there, too, there are a few complete Christian families. Mr. Chen Wei-cheng has recently taken up the work there, and finds it difficult, for in the town there is only one family, and so he has little fellowship; all the other Christians are in the country.

Our next stop was at Nanpu, where we found Bishop Ku. He had come down to take a big memorial service for the mother of the head of the Salt Administration, a wonderful opportunity of witness to the large number of friends of this important Christian official who gathered on that occasion. During his stay the Bishop had developed a large carbuncle, and though he attended a little reception given to us the morning after our arrival, he was unable to accompany us back to Paoning the following day. It was a treat here to see a group of educated young men and women, Christians, friends of the Martins. All through this trip we had not been able to visit all the country churches in each pastorate, but only the places through which our road led us.

There was a great thrill about approaching Langchung (Paoning), the old centre of the Diocese, and the mother church through which the Gospel has been sounded out into all the eastern part of the province. We were met by representative members of the church, the missionaries, and the Christian children from the school. One of the great joys was to see the happy face of Archdeacon John Wang among those who came down to meet us. Up in the courtyard of the former Bishop's House, the school children sang again, and a very short meeting of welcome was held. Work began at once with discussing and planning the form of service for the enthronement next day, and then continued with a long talk on Church matters with the Archdeacon till quite late. All through that week

the work of interviews continued, even on Christmas Day : there were so many people to meet that nine days were not enough, and I left without having had personal talks with all the students in the Bible Institute. An account of the Enthronement has been written, and my wife is writing on the doings of the Christian community over Christmas, so I will not touch on these. The enthronement fell on December 21st, St. Thomas' Day, the anniversary of my ordination as presbyter in Rochester Cathedral in 1924. What was more important than any of these other events was a meeting with the Church Council of the Cathedral congregation. In the past few years there have been things hindering in the congregation, things that have been a sorrow to the leaders of the Church, and a source of grief to several of the spiritual folk and to the missionaries. These things were faced up to with individuals concerned, and with the local Church Council, and there seemed to be a real sense of the wrong of suffering hindrances. In a closing speech, the Rev. Wang Kong-ai, minister of the Cathedral congregation, said that he felt this meeting was the beginning of a new era in the history of the Church at Lang-chung, and in my heart I breathed the prayer, "God grant it may be so." The day after that meeting we had a little missionary conference in the afternoon, and in the evening a good prayer meeting. To complete the story of God's goodness, Bishop Ku came back that night, and in a long talk next day I found that our hearts were one about this matter, and that he fully approved of the way that Archdeacon Wang and I had handled the rather complex situation. It was a joy for me to have had fellowship with the Archdeacon, and to realise how God had answered according to His promise our prayer for wisdom. I must confess that I had been somewhat dreading this first visit to Lang-chung, but God was very good. After the enthronement service, I went along into the Cathedral grounds and stood by the grave of Bishop Cassels, and there came over me a sense of the greatness of the heritage into which I had entered, and at the same time the assurance that God was just the same to-day, in these perplexing times, as in the early days. Another of the grand experiences of this visit was that same afternoon to hear the choir of the Fourth National Middle School, about forty to fifty boys' and girls"

voices, sing in the courtyard of the Bishop's House the Hallelujah Chorus in English unaccompanied. It gave one a thrill to see these fellows and girls, nearly all refugees, in their coarse khaki cotton uniforms, cloth shoes and peaked caps, lined up singing in perfect time and tune Handel's masterpiece: "Hallelujah! the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ." Their teacher, a real enthusiast, asked if I would like to address them. I did, and found my theme in the burden of their chorus. A few of them are Christians, but the majority and their teacher, alas, though a product of a mission school, are not.

"The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" I need that reminder in these days of war and turmoil in Europe and China. The burdens are heavy. Besides the care of all the Churches is the problem of the livelihood of all our Chinese fellow-workers. The cost of living has risen to a figure from eight to ten times that of last year. As I have told them, our faith must be in God, for we face the New Year with empty hands. That does not matter if they are outstretched to Him in supplication.

Yours in Christ's service,

K. G. BEVAN,

Bishop.

Western Szechwan.

No further communication has been received from **Bishop Song** since his letter published in the last issue of the "Bulletin," in which he spoke of the strain imposed upon him by his long itineration. The Secretary of the C.M.S. West China Mission, Rev. H. A. Maxwell, writing to the Editor on February 9th last, says: "Bishop Song has been rather poorly of late. He found the trip round the Diocese rather trying, and then got worn out at Synod. He nearly fainted in church one Sunday, and has been resting in the country for the last three weeks." This probably accounts for his silence; and we are sure readers will extend to him their sympathy and will pray that he may be speedily restored (D.V.) to health and strength.

Mr. Maxwell writes further : " We have just completed Synod and Conference, and in view of the financial difficulties under which we labour these days, it is most encouraging to know that such a good spirit prevailed there. There might have been a great deal of friction, but instead, it was one of the happiest Synods one has attended, and workers showed evidence of being keen to get on with the evangelistic work of the Church. There has in consequence been a great deal of evangelism this New Year, and some encouraging reports are coming in."

News from the Stations.

DAY 1. Langchung.

Mrs. Bevan writes : Despite the war and all that results therefrom, Christmas at Langchung was a very joyful time, and perhaps the absence of all feasting only seemed to accentuate the true joy which is given to us at such times ! On Christmas Eve, a service was held in the Cathedral after dark, the big building being lit by pressure lamps which seemed very wonderful to those of us who had been managing after darkness falls by the flickering light given by vegetable oil lamps ! Carols and Christmas hymns were sung by different groups with appropriate Scripture readings between ; the junior members of the Sunday School thoroughly enjoyed their turn, and sang with a will. Miss Clarke's Bible Class girls sang very sweetly in English, and the Bible Institute closed with " Silent Night " in parts. The congregation was a large one, and the good behaviour and reverence were very noticeable.

Just as we were retiring for the night a party of carollers arrived, the costumes of some reminiscent of old English mummers. They sang with a right good will, and wished us all a merry Christmas through an improvised megaphone, but were so excited to go on to the next place that they forgot to take up a collection until reminded by Mr. Aldis. They were collecting in aid of a winter clothes fund for soldiers at the front, and before they retired to a well-earned night's rest in Mr. Aldis' room (all seventeen of them !) they had gathered about \$40.

The early morning of Christmas Day also brought carollers, the men of the Bible Institute singing the tenor and bass parts of "Silent Night" quite perfectly, though without the other parts; the whole effect sounded rather quaint to some!

At the morning service there were baptisms, followed by Holy Communion, and Archdeacon Wang preached a splendid sermon. In the afternoon the Sunday School children had their treat, playing games, and being presented with packets of peanuts at the end.

In the evening, the missionary community, numbering about a dozen, gathered at the doctor's house to listen to records of the "Messiah" on Mr. Aldis' gramophone. The opportunity of listening to such beautiful music was a real refreshment and inspiration, and made a happy ending to a very happy Christmas Day.

Sintientsi. During last November, Archdeacon John Wang conducted three days' Bible study in this little country church. Prayer is asked for guidance regarding the renting of a house at the market of Ho-Lin-Si.

DAY 5. Pachung (Pachow).

Towards the end of last year, there were special meetings for women catechumen, and some of these were baptised. A Christian man, living some eighty miles away to the north, is the only witness for Christ in a vast area. He first heard the Gospel at Hanchung, Shensi, believed, and destroyed his idols on his return home. Later a missionary passed through his village, and he heard more of the Gospel. Last year he visited Pachow and was baptised.

DAY 6. Nanpu.

An unusual evangelistic opportunity occurred some short time ago. The Christian Salt Official held a memorial service in commemoration of the death of his mother. Bishop Ku came down for the event, and about two hundred Government employees heard the Gospel then. Recently there have been one or two baptisms, and two new men have started attending services.

DAY 7. Yingshan.

The departure of Misses Allen and Warren for furlough leaves a gap in the women's work which is not

easily filled, and we take this opportunity of acknowledging the splendid work they have done during this last term of service. The Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Sadler have now taken up work in this centre, and it is hoped that more emphasis will be given to the men's side of the work, especially in the country districts. Prayer is asked that a suitable Bible-woman may be found to work with Miss Parsons in the outstations.

DAY 8. Nanchung.

The new pastor, the Rev. David Hsü, is preaching powerful Gospel sermons and his ministry is very acceptable. Attendances have been smaller, after the bombing of last September. Daily preaching in the front guest hall is encouraging. Part is now a reading room, with books and newspapers, and this attracts a number of people each day.

DAY 12. Chühsien.

Last year the outstation of Sanhwei had to be closed, and another outstation, at the market of Hsih Ch'i, has shortly to be closed also. Please pray for outstation work, and for the leaders. One elderly outstation leader, Mr. Hsiao, is hoping to conduct services near his home for all who are interested, and prayer is asked that many country people may be reached in this way. Mr. and Mrs. Derbyshire are now living in the city.

DAY 13. Tachu.

Meetings have continued as usual, though they are not so flourishing as might be desired. The Sunday School keeps up pretty well, and it was hoped that a Daily Vacation Bible School for children might be planned in the Chinese New Year. It is still difficult to keep hold of older children from the Government schools. The outstation of Kao-Hsieh-Ch'ang needs prayer, that there may be some real progress. The Tachu staff also asks for prayer that souls may be won, for contacts are made with people in different walks of life.

DAY 14. Tahsien.

The Women's School has been most encouraging this term, there being eighteen students, all of whom have shown great promise. There has also been much to encourage in

the country work. Two country churches are considering purchasing new property for permanent churches, and in another preparations are being made to build. In two new markets, the Lord is opening hearts, and we believe that before long new churches will be established. Early in 1941 the Tahsien pastorate is to be divided, and **Suanhan** will become a separate pastorate. Mr. Chen Nan-ih, who for many years has been a faithful and zealous voluntary worker, is to be ordained deacon. He will continue to work in a voluntary capacity, and will finally become responsible for the oversight of the churches in the Suanhan area.

DAY 16. Liangshan.

Last Christmas, in the city church, three people were baptised, and four were received as catechumen. There have also been baptisms at outstations, and prayer is asked that these people may all grow in grace. The church was somewhat damaged in a recent air raid, and the school has been totally wrecked.

Tienkiang. The last few months have been chiefly spent in outstation and country evangelistic work. Each outstation has been visited and used as an evangelistic centre from which the surrounding country markets have been worked. In all, some twenty markets have been visited for street preaching; many of these have hardly been touched in the past while, in some cases, this was their first visit by preachers of the Gospel. The members of the Women's Missionary Service League went to the market of Muh-an-ch'iao for some ten days' special work amongst the women, and were much encouraged. Later they also visited the market of Ten-chi-p'u for similar work. A new work is opening in the large market of Kao-t'an, where the local Christians have rented premises on the street for services. The Pastorate evangelistic band is hoping to have a special evangelistic effort there next spring.

DAY 17. Kaihsien.

Miss Huang has been welcomed back as Biblewoman, and she is a great strength to the work on the women's side. During last October, Mr. and Mrs. Iliff made a tour of four of the outstations, conducting meetings

specially for children ; Sunday School work in outstations is difficult owing to the lack of suitable leaders. Miss Gowar and Miss Huang held a series of well-attended meetings for the Christian women in **Wentangtsing**. It is hoped that, before long, Miss Lucas will be able to return to this work. Meanwhile, Miss Gowar has left for furlough. Please pray for the Women's Bible School, held in Kaihsien early in the year, and also for a further tour of the Men's Evangelistic Band.

DAY 18-19. Wanhsien and Fengkieh.

Although, owing to the shortage of workers at Wanhsien, Yünyang, Yünanch'ang and Fengkieh have not recently been visited, even in these places there have been features which call for thanksgiving. Services have sometimes been held in the home of a Christian. Small congregations have gathered in new places. Please continue to pray for Mr. Snow in all his work in this area.

DAY 23. Mienyang.

The church and outstations have been making a special effort towards becoming a self-supporting church. They are now giving at the rate of \$1,000 a year through the channel of the Sunday offertory, in addition to almsgiving through other methods ; this is an increase of several hundred per cent. upon previous years. Each church member has a special bag marked with his or her own number on the register, and these bags are hung in a convenient place in the church whence they can be taken before the service for use during the offertory. One statistical form on the notice board registers individual offerings and another the total offerings of the church in relation to the aim already decided upon.

Mr. Duddington is in touch with a hundred students of the Shantung National Sixth Middle School. Some of them come for English, but many are keen to study the Scriptures and come along to the church for a Bible Class or to the Reading Room where it is often possible to have personal talks with them. Archdeacon Donnithorne and Mr. Duddington organised a Bible School for those who had been coming to church, and as a result of these meetings, 16 students have definitely accepted Christ and are being prepared for baptism. One of them is now working

with Mr. Maxwell in Chengtu and hopes to go on this summer to the Union Theological College, and two others already have full-time Christian work in mind. It may be that some most promising material for future leadership of the Church may come from this work in Mienyang, which is already spreading through the students' witness.

Mrs. Tai was located by Synod to women's work in Mienyang. There is great need for a woman missionary to supervise the Women's School and the Primary School work there.

DAY 24. **Anhsien.**

Miss Armstrong has been located to this station. Pastor Lin from Ichang is in charge of the parish; and Fu Pei-chi is working in the outstations.

Mr. Chao Wen-hua has been given permission to open a dispensary at **Ho-pa-ch'ang**, and Mr. Hsiong Kwang-iao will visit there twice a month. A ten days' Bible School is to be held (D.V.) at Hwa-kai-tsī shortly.

DAY 25. **Mienchu.**

Dr. Wu and Dr. Chu have now left the Hospital, and Dr. Knight's appointment as Medical Superintendent has been warmly welcomed by the staff, but this arrangement is only temporary and the situation there is still difficult. Mrs. Chao has been located to this station as Biblewoman. The outstation of **Shihfang**, formerly attached to Anhsien, has been transferred to the control of Mienchu parish.

DAY 26. **Tehyang.**

Once again Chinese New Year has provided glorious opportunities for preaching the Gospel to a crowd of men and women who, for a whole week, filled the preaching hall from forenoon to dusk. Many listened most intently, and it was obvious that in many souls there is a hunger and thirst for something—perhaps they themselves know not what! Surely the seed sown so faithfully during those days cannot fail to bring forth fruit sooner or later. It was a great joy to have a young student from the Shantung Middle School helping in the preaching for several days in succession and a Christian man coming in from the country several miles every day to distribute tracts. One day he was beaten by a soldier to whom he offered a tract; but

this did not prevent him from continuing his work the following day. Rev. S. C. T'ang is excellent in preaching hall work ; and it is a joy to notice how the Biblewoman, Mrs. Wei, is developing in that direction.

DAY 27. Hanchow.

The outstation of **Chint'ang** has now been placed under control of this parish.

DAY 29. Chongkiang.

On Christmas Day, after service in church, 180 people, Christians and their friends, sat down to dinner together, after which there were sports and games. The dinner was entirely arranged by the Chinese, and cost fivepence a head, some of the better-off Christians giving more so that poorer ones might pay less.

In a farmstead about six miles away a young man, himself only a recent believer, has been telling the Gospel to others. A child in the home was very ill with seemingly no hope of recovery, and, according to cruel custom, was put outside so that there might not be a death in the house. The women told the young man that, if he prayed to God to heal the child and the prayer was answered, they would believe the message he had been telling them. He prayed, and the child completely recovered. Several of the women now come to church and are eagerly learning from Gospel booklets which they take home and continue to learn with the help of a boy who can read. One of the women, a widow, said she used to be so harassed and worried, but since she has believed the Gospel her heart is much more peaceful. Please pray for the growth of this work. Mrs. Ho, of Chongkiang, and Mrs. Li, of **Sintu**, have been asked by Synod to change places as Biblewomen.

DAY 30. Chengtu.

This city has had three or four air raids, but without much serious damage being done. One of the most encouraging features of the work in the city has been the response gained in the preaching hall. Large numbers of men and women attended the daily services during the New Year holiday ; and as a result of the regular meetings held in the hall every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening, it has now been possible to start a Sunday evening service in church to which some 60 or 70 people come who are

interested in the Gospel. Although they have not been admitted to church membership, they are most reverent, and it is found that the very act of worship is itself one of the most potent methods of bringing home to them the sense of God's presence and their great need of His forgiveness and redemption. Gradually a nucleus is being formed of those who are keen to join the church, and it is hoped through them to build up a real parish in this neighbourhood. The P'i-fang-kai congregation has been a student church for so long, and when the students go on holiday the church has been left in all its nakedness. The Class for Women which Deaconess Stewart has been training has made a valuable contribution to the evangelistic meetings and services.

Personal Notes.

Mrs. H. A. Maxwell and **David** arrived safely in Chengtu on Boxing Day. **Joy** is settling down well at Chefoo, and is going to be happy there.

Miss B. Jackman has also arrived in Chengtu.

Miss Lewis, of the Church Army in Western Szechwan, has become engaged to marry **Mr. W. J. Picton**, of the C.I.M.

The resignation of **Miss V. C. Mannett** has been accepted by the Australian C.M.S., so that she will not be returning to West China, but will continue the valuable work she is doing on the deputation staff in Australia.

Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Duddington and **Miss Hensman** are hoping to leave for furlough shortly.

Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Rudd are hoping to go out to Western Szechwan via Rangoon as soon as a passage can be obtained for them. They are greatly needed to take the Duddingtons' place in Mienyang.

Prayer Cycle.

EASTERN SZECHWAN :

Day.

1. LANGCHUNG (PAONING). TANISHAN.
2. TS' IEN-FUH-CH'ANG.
3. ILUNG, TSANGKI, KIENKOH.
4. KWANGYUAN, CHAOHWA.
5. PACHUNG (PACHOW), NANCHIANG, TUNGKIANG.
6. NANPU, FU-TSUN-I, YENTING.
7. YINGSHAN, CHOWKOW.
8. NANCHUNG (SHUNKING), HSICHUNG.
9. KWANGAN.
10. YOCH'IH.
11. KUAN-IN-KOH, LINSHUI.
12. CHUHSIEN, WU-CHIA-CH'ANG.
13. TACHU.
14. TAHSIEN, SUANHAN.
15. WANYUAN, CHENGKOW.
16. LIANGSHAN, TIENKIANG.
17. KAIHSIEN, WEN-T'ANG-TSING, LIN-KIANG-SHIH.
18. WANHSIEN.
19. FENGKIEH (KWEIFU), YUNYANG, YUIN-AN-CH'ANG.

WESTERN SZECHWAN :

20. MOWCHOW.
21. P'ING-WU (LONGAN). KIANGYU.
22. CHONGPA.
23. MIENYANG (MIENCHOW).
24. ANHSIEN.
25. MIENCHU.
26. TEHYANG.
27. HANCHOW.
28. SINTU.
29. CHONGKIANG.
30. CHENGTU.
31. UNOCCUPIED PLACES.

Special Subjects for Thanksgiving and Intercession.

LET US THANK GOD

For the safe journey of Bishop and Mrs. Bevan from the coast to East Szechwan; and for his enthronement in Langchung.

For journeying mercies granted to our missionaries travelling out to West China or coming home during the past year.

For encouraging progress and new opportunities in Taishihch'ang. For the signs of the growth of a new Church membership in Chengtu.

For answered prayer in the facing of hindrances in the church in Langchung.

For His blessing on the Synod meetings in Western Szechwan.

For the growth of self-support in the Mienyang parish.

LET US PRAY

That God will graciously restore Bishop Song to health and grant him all needed strength for his work.

For Mr. Lo, of Tachu, who was to be priested during Lent.

For the continued progress of the Women's School at Tahsien. For blessing on the men's work in the Yingshan pastorate; and that a Biblewoman may be found for work in the outstations.

For all outstation work, especially in difficult and lonely places. For Mr. Chen Wei-ch'eng at Sinchenpa. For the Chongkiang country work.

For the growing and encouraging work among students in Mienyang, and for those who have recently accepted Christ and are looking forward to Christian work. For the needs of the schools in Mienyang.

For the Mienchu Hospital, and for guidance about the future staffing of this institution.

PRAYER FOR WESTERN CHINA.

ALmighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for Thy great love in redeeming us unto Thyself by the precious blood of Thy dear Son and for the gift of Thy sanctifying Spirit. May we show our love to Thee by loving the souls for whom Christ died, and by seeking to make known His glorious salvation throughout the world. We pray Thee to send down Thy heavenly blessing upon Thy servants, the Bishops and pastors of Thy flock in Western China, and all who are associated with them in their work for Thee. May Thy presence be with our missionary brethren and sisters who are seeking to bring the knowledge of Thee to those who know Thee not. May Thy Holy Spirit bless and prosper all their work and bring it to good success. We pray for those who have been baptised into Thy faith, fear and love that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Thee. We pray also for those who know Thee not that they may be drawn by the cords of Thy Fatherly love to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that they and we may work and pray together for the return of our King to establish His Everlasting Kingdom.

Finally, we pray that Thou wouldest comfort and strengthen all who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other anxiety; cheer and encourage all who are in special need of Thy help; and bring both them and us to Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Bulletin is issued four times a year, and is sent free of charge to all subscribers of 5/- and over to the funds of the Diocesan Association. Others who wish for the Magazine can obtain it from the Organising Secretary on payment of 2/- per annum (to include postage). Residents in **Canada, Australia or New Zealand**, however, should apply to the respective Secretaries in those countries, whose names appear inside the front cover of the Magazine.

